

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-80 canceled.

81 (new). A computerized data handling system comprising:

a) a facility for bidding; and

b) a limit condition means for limiting the number of bids that can be made by an identified subscriber.

82 (new). The system as in claim 81, comprising computerized data handling means for running a bidding facility comprising:

a) means for running a subscription and bidding facility for at least one set of subscribers to the facility; and

b) means to limit the number of successful bids that can be made by an identified subscriber in said at least one set of subscribers.

83 (new). A computerized data handling system adapted to run a bidding facility having a data handling means that is adapted to run a subscription and bidding facility for at least one set of subscribers to the facility comprising:

a) means to facilitate a string of successive bidding occasions and to ensure that during each of said successive bidding occasions only one successful bid is allowed;

b) means to ensure that a subscription occasion precedes each bidding occasion; and

c) means to specify a number characteristic for a set, to specify this as a number of successive bidding occasions constituting a chain of such occasions within said string, to associate an identified subscriber with said chain, and to check that guarantees with respect to each subscriber have been made for subscribing for that chain, and to ensure that the subscriber's subscription expires at the end of said chain.

84 (new). The system as in claim 82, further comprising a secure entry for said at least one set of subscribers to said site and wherein said means to limit the number of successful bids includes a facility to ensure that an identified

subscriber who has made winning bids a predetermined number of times cannot subsequently make a successful bid.

85 (new). The system as in claim 84, further comprising means to provide an electronic site with a facility to check that a subscriber to the site has provided a guarantee of making subscriptions with respect to a predetermined number of subscription occasions.

86 (new). The system as in claim 83, further comprising a guarantee checking means adapted to check, before a subscriber is allowed to bid, that said subscriber is creditworthy, and can guarantee for continuing to subscribe on all subsequent bidding occasions of a predetermined number after the subscriber has won, and a means for giving the subscriber a pre-authorization to bid.

87 (new). The system as in claim 86, further comprising a means to check that a winning subscriber is adequately guaranteed, means to calculate any tax or other pre-arranged deduction, and means to calculate any winnings to be paid out to him and any part or parts of said winning bid to be paid out to each subscriber.

88 (new). The system as in claim 81, further comprising means to provide said site with a plurality of subdivisions each adapted to allow bidding for a separate identified fungible object.

89 (new). The system as in claim 88, further comprising means to ensure that a subdivision is not first opened for bidding until it has a specified number of subscribers, and then opening said subdivision for only those subscribers and then only for a specified number of bidding occasions.

90 (new). The system as in claim 89, further comprising means to ensure that a subscriber has completed subscribing for the specified number of successive bidding occasions regardless of when that subscriber subscribes to that subdivision.

91 (new). The system as in claim 90, further comprising means to ensure that once a subscriber has completed subscribing for the specified number of bidding occasions, his subscription expires.

92 (new). The system as in claim 91, further comprising means for allowing a subscriber to have a maximum of two subscriptions running at the same time for a same fungible

object.

93 (new). The system as in claim 92, further comprising means for holding a financial account to obtain a guaranteed payment from the financial account in respect to the subscription occasion.

94 (new). The system as in claim 81, further comprising a means for establishing and registering a credit limit for a subscription.

95 (new). The system as in claim 94, further comprising means for controlling a preauthorization for a subscriber for a subdivision in dependence upon a credit limit for the subscriber and credit limits for that subdivision and for all other subdivisions for which the subscriber is pre-authorized.

96 (new). A method for conducting electronic commerce involving the exchange of investments and borrowing among a plurality of network registrants, the method comprising:

a) accepting from a plurality of network registrants different offers of investments;

b) auctioning groups of one or more investment offers among said network registrants;

c) receiving from at least one of said network registrants a bid for a borrowing of said group; and

d) ensuring that not more than a predetermined number of bids is successful from said at least one registrant taken from a plurality of network registrants.

97 (new). The method as in claim 96, further comprising the step of ensuring that a bidder is not allowed to have more than a predetermined number of successful bids.

98 (new). The method as in claim 96, further comprising the step of establishing and registering a credit limit for a subscription; and controlling a pre-authorization for a subscriber for a subdivision in dependence upon a credit limit for the subscriber and credit limits for that subdivision and for all other subdivisions for which the subscriber is pre-authorized.

99 (new). The system as in claim 81, comprising a data handling means comprising:

a) means to note the identification of a subscriber
inputting a value;

b) means to limit the number of such values input by said
subscriber; and

c) means to compare different values and to choose one of
these values according to a rule in the manner of an auction.